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ACTION

COMICS® WEEKLY

GREEN LANTERN®... AMERICA'S COSMIC DEFENDER!



Heronia
templeton

PLUS:

NIGHTWING

CATWOMAN

SUPERMAN

BLACK CANARY

PHANTOM

STRANGER

GREEN LANTERN

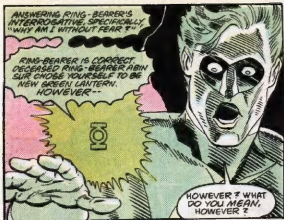
BRING ME A MAN

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THAT'S... THAT'S
ABIN SUR! THE
DYING ALIEN WHO
GAVE ME A POWER
RING YEARS AGO
AND MADE ME
EARTH'S GREEN
LANTERN.

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

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ANSWERING RING-BEARER'S INTERROGATIVE, SPECIFICALLY, "WHY AM I WITHOUT FEAR?"

RING-BEARER IS CORRECT. DECEASED RING-BEARER ABIN SUR CHOSE YOURSELF TO BE NEW GREEN LANTERN. HOWEVER...

HOWEVER? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HOWEVER?

HOWEVER, ABIN SUR'S THOUGHT PROCESSES WERE CHAOTIC. THERE WERE ORDERLY PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW THAT HE IGNORED. THE GUARDIANS OF OA SHOULD HAVE CHOSEN SUCCESSOR. IN HIS EXTREMITY, ABIN SUR WAS CONFUSED AND FRIGHTENED. ALL HE COULD THINK OF WAS THAT HIS END WAS IMMINENT AND...

I CAN'T JUST DIE HERE. LEAVE THE RING UNATTENDED SOMEONE MUST HAVE CONTROL OF IT. AND...

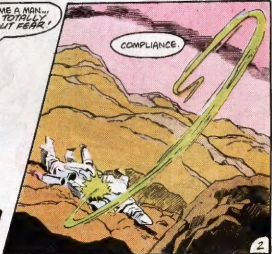
... AND IT MUST BE SOMEONE WHO, IF DEATH APPROACHES HIM, WON'T FEEL THIS SAME TERROR THAT I FEEL.



RING! HEED MY LAST COMMAND!



BRING ME A MAN... WHO IS TOTALLY WITHOUT FEAR!



COMPLIANCE.

THE RING PERFORMED A PSYCHIC PROFILE OF HUMANITY AND DISCOVERED A DISCOURAGING FACT-- ALL HUMANS HAVE FEARS. A VAST VARIETY, AND SOME FAR MORE DEEPLY BURIED THAN OTHERS. BUT A MAN COMPLETELY AND TOTALLY WITHOUT FEAR OF ANY SORT, WHO IN ADDITION WAS MENTALLY STABLE BY HUMAN STANDARDS, WAS NOT TO BE FOUND.

TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS, THE RING ELECTED TO FIND A MAN WITH A MINIMUM OF FEAR AND PROCEED FROM THAT POINT.

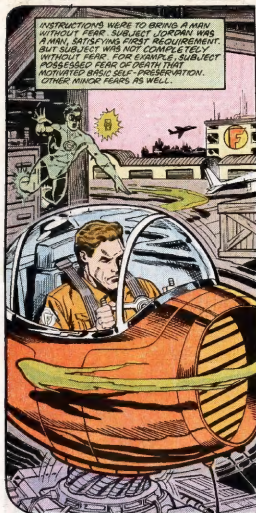


"PROCEED FROM THAT POINT?"
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?



TIME BEING CRITICAL, THE RING LIMITED ITS SCAN TO THE IMMEDIATE CONTINENT. IT FOUND TWO EXAMPLES OF HUMANITY BUT GARDNER AND HAL JORDAN-- YOURSELF, RING-BEARER-- WHO POSSESSED A MINIMUM OF FEAR. SINCE YOU WERE GEOGRAPHICALLY CLOSER TO DYING RING-BEARER, YOU WERE SELECTED.







I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL HAL ABOUT MY NEW MODELING CAREER. WE'LL EVEN HAVE OUR OWN APARTMENT-- WE CAN GET OUT OF THE HOTEL.

I HOPE HAL DOESN'T MIND STAYING HERE IN CHICAGO A WHILE LONGER. I KNOW IT'S A BIG CAREER JUMP, BUT--



HMMM. NOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?



GREAT GUARDIANS!



NOW COME ON, SON... YOU DON'T REALLY WANT TO DO THIS.

IF I DIDN'T WANT TO DO THIS, I WOULDN'T BE OUT HERE, MAN!

IT JUST ALL SUCKS, MAN. ALL OF IT. AND THERE'S NO REASON WHY I SHOULD HANG AROUND FOR IT, OKAY? NOW, JUST BACK OFF.

I MEAN IT!

I MEAN IT, RING. MAKE ME THE WAY I WAS.

DIFFICULT, RING-BEARER. THIS UNIT DID NOT PERFORM ACTUAL PROCEDURE-- ABIN SUR'S RING DID.

FULL DETAILS OF ACTUAL PROCEDURE WERE PART OF NOW DESTROYED PRIMARY RING DATA BASE. RESTORATION TO YOUR PRECISE PREVIOUS STATE IS NOT POSSIBLE.

WE'LL DO THE BEST YOU CAN! I WANT TO BE FULLY HUMAN, NOT SOME MINDLESS ZOMBIE.

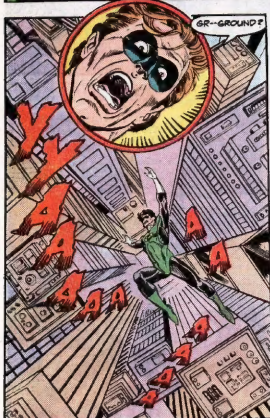
THIS IS AN ORDER FROM YOUR RING-BEARER--UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES DO I WANT TO BE A MAN WITHOUT FEAR. COMPLY.

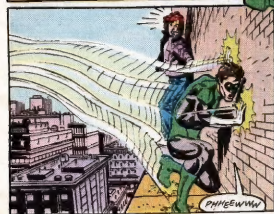
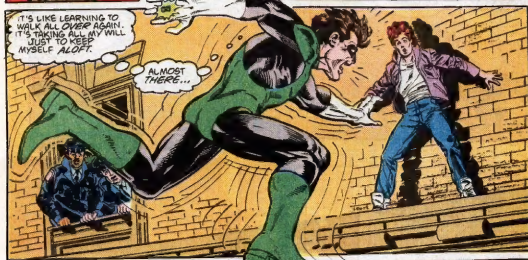


HMMM. I DON'T FEEL ANY DIFFERENT, RING. I SAID--



HOLD IT. WHAT'S THAT YELLING OUTSIDE?





YEAH, YOU KNEW--
SOMEHOW YOU KNEW--
HOW I FELT.

HOW SCARED I AM OF
EVERYTHING. I MEAN--
THERE'S AIDS, AND SKIN
CANCER BECAUSE THE OZONE
LAYER'S SHOT, THE WORLD'S
SO AMBERABLE AND AWFUL.
I FIGURED, WHAT'S THE
POINT OF LIVING, Y'KNOW?

AND THEN YOU COME ALONG,
ONE OF THE BRAVEST GUYS IN
THE WORLD, AND YOU ACT SCARED...
AND THEN OVERCOME IT... JUST
TO TRY AND MAKE ME REALIZE
THAT EVERYONE GETS
SCARED.



BUT THE IMPORTANT
THING IS THAT YOU HAVE
TO KEEP GOING. THAT YOU
CAN OVERCOME IT. THAT YOU
DON'T HAVE TO BE
FEARLESS. YOU JUST
NEED TO HAVE GUTS.

DON'T GET ME WRONG
YOU'RE A LOUSY ACTOR.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE
SCARED FOR A SECOND.
BUT THAT'S WHAT YOU
WERE TRYING TO MAKE
ME REALIZE, RIGHT?

RIGHT.
ABSOLUTELY
RIGHT.

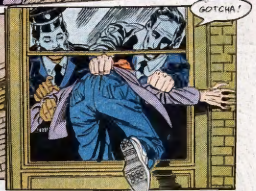


I... GUESS I'D
LOOK PRETTY
DISGUSTING
IF I GOT
SPLATTED
ANYWAY.

ONE SIDE!
I'M COMING
IN.



GOTCHA!



AWRIGHT!
WAY TO GO,
LANTERN!

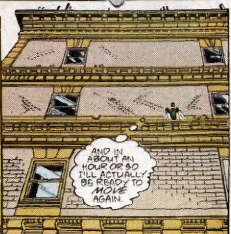


WHAT
A GUY!

THE KID
WAS RIGHT.
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO BE
FEARLESS.



I'LL JUST TAKE IT
ONE STEP AT A TIME.
LIKE RIGHT NOW. I
CAN LOOK DOWN AND
I'M NOT THE LEAST
BIT NERVOUS. THAT'S
PROGRESS, RIGHT
THERE.



AND IN
ABOUT AN
HOUR OR SO
I'LL ACTUALLY
BE READY TO
MOVE
AGAIN.

NEXT:

FREAKS!



I...hurt...to my very soul...
what remains of it...
what Ah Puch, the Mayan
Death God, did not rip
from me...

WELCOME, STRANGER-
TO MY REALM, I AYE.
THOUGH I DO OWE MY
AWAKENING TO THE
MORTALS OF YOUR
WORLD, I COULD NOT
STAY AWAY FROM
CHICHEN ITZA...

...OR MY
LONG-DEAD
SUBJECTS!

PHANTOM
STRANGER

DEATH

GOD

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G-2852

YOU...SHOULD HAVE SLAIN
ME... WHEN YOU HAD THE
CHANCE, MONSTER, FOR AS
LONG AS THERE IS BREATH
IN MY BODY, I...

AHH, THAT WAS
MY INTENTION...
BUT YOU ARE
NO ORDINARY MORTAL
STRANGER

THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO
WORSHIPPED ME CAME EASILY,
BUT YOU CONTAIN THE
COSMIC LIFE FORCE--

--MORE
POWERFUL
THAN ANY I
HAVE EVER
TASTED.

CEASE
THIS MADNESS.
AH PUCH, THERE
IS A HUMAN SOUL
WITHIN YOU--
SOMEWHERE...

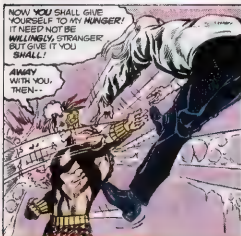
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DO NOT ALLOW
THE EVIL TO SUBVERT
THE MAN THAT WAS
DANIEL GLEASON!

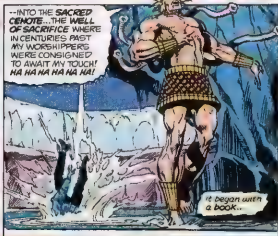
GLEASON IS DEAD! HIS
WORK EXPOSED THE SPELL TO
REVIVE ME TO HUMANITY--

--AND THEN HIS BODY SERVED AS A
VESSEL TO CONTAIN MY DIVINE BEING!



NOW YOU SHALL GIVE
YOURSELF TO MY HUNGER!
IT NEED NOT BE
WILLINGLY, STRANGER
BUT GIVE IT YOU
SHALL!

AWAY
WITH YOU,
THEN--



--INTO THE SACRED
CEMOTÉ... THE WELL
OF SACRIFICE WHERE
IN CENTURIES PAST
MY WORSHIPERS
WERE CONSIDERED
TO AWAIT MY TOUCH!
HA HA HA HA HA HA!

it began with
a book...



A work of
fiction by a
man who
did not
believe
in the
magics
he wrote
of

F.B.I., MA'AM. THIS IS
A WARRANT CALLING
FOR THE IMMEDIATE
REMOVAL OF "MIND GAMES"
FROM YOUR SHELVES



Daniel Gleason discovered
words last spoken during
the reign of the Mayan
Empire and included them
in his book...

AAAAHHHHHRRR!

OH... MY
GOD!



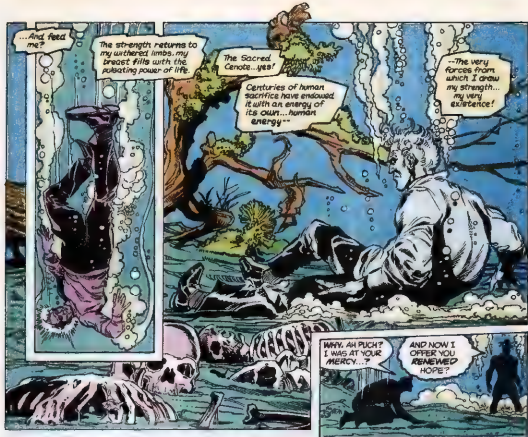
JEEZ
ANOTHER
ONE!

And all
those who
read those
words became
their victims...



--And enabled
4h Puck to
live anew!

The waters
take me



...And feed me?

The strength returns to my withered limbs, my breast fills with the pulsating power of life.

The Sacred Cenote...yes!

Centuries of human sacrifice have endowed it with an energy of its own...human energy--

--The very forces from which I draw my strength... my very existence!

WHY, AN PUCH? I WAS AT YOUR MERCY...?

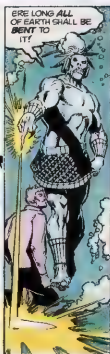
AND NOW I OFFER YOU RENEWED HOPE?



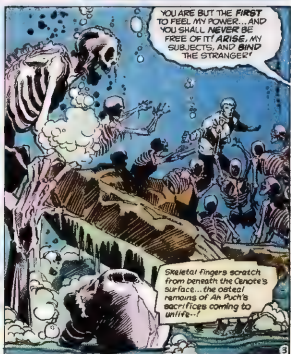
'TIS BUT AN ILLUSION, STRANGER, FOR THE RENEWAL OF YOUR STRENGTH SERVES ME...
...TO REVIVE YOU AGAIN AND AGAIN--
TO FEED ME THROUGH-
OUT ETERNITY!!

THAT IS MADNESS!

THAT IS MY WILL!

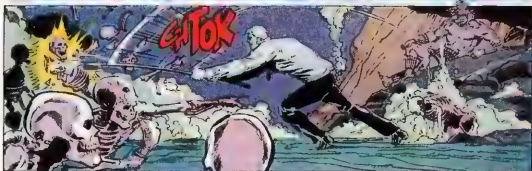


ERE LONG ALL OF EARTH SHALL BE BENT TO IT!



YOU ARE BUT THE FIRST TO FEEL MY POWER... AND YOU SHALL NEVER BE FREE OF IT! ARISE, MY SUBJECTS, AND BIND THE STRANGER!

Skeletal fingers scratch from beneath the Cenote's surface... the osseous remains of An Puch's sacrifices coming to unlife--



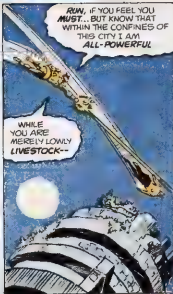


The pure air of the Yucatan is tinged with decay that assuages my nostrils as I explode from the well! Ah Puch grows stronger by the moment--

--His spectral subjects gaining form and substance drawn from his evil.



Am I the only light that shines upon this beleaguered realm?



RUN, IF YOU FEEL YOU MUST... BUT KNOW THAT WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THIS CITY I AM ALL-POWERFUL

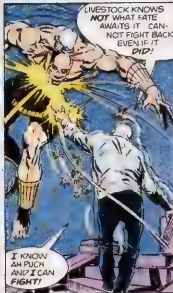
WHILE YOU ARE MERELY LOWLY LIVESTOCK--



UHHHHNN!



--TO BE FATTENED WITH THE LIFEFORCE UNTIL I HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE YOU TO SLAUGHTER!

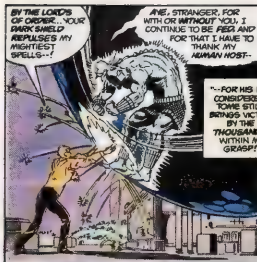


LIVESTOCK KNOWS NOT WHAT FATE AWAITS IT CAN NOT FIGHT BACK EVEN IF IT DID!

I KNOW AH PUCH AND I CAN FIGHT!



FOR ALL THE GOOD IT DOES YOU! HA HA HA HA!



BY THE LORDS OF ORDER... YOUR DARK SHIELD REPUSES MY MIGHTIEST SPELLS--!

AHE, STRANGER, FOR WITH OR WITHOUT YOU, I CONTINUE TO BE FED! AND FOR THAT I HAVE TO THANK MY HUMAN HOST--

"--FOR HIS ILL-CONSIDERED TOME STILL BRINGS VICTIMS BY THE THOUSANDS WITHIN MY GRASP!"



YOU WILL TASTE DEFEAT, MONSTER!



WILL I? NA NA NA!

SURELY NOT BY YOUR HANDS, FOOL... NOT IF THIS PITIFUL DISPLAY OF PRETTY LIGHTS IS THE BEST YOU CAN MUSTER AGAINST ME!



LIGHT, AH PUCH... IT DOES MORE THAN MERELY SHINE... IT ILLUMINATES... IT SEEKS OUT THE DARK PLACES AND FILLS THEM WITH ITS INTENSITY!

DARKNESS IS THE NATURAL STATE-- SMOOTHERING THE LIGHT!

HIS EYES ARE BLIND TO THE LIGHT--



--But it requires only a single, tiny spark to vanquish shadow!

BHM--? WH--WHAT TOUCHES ME??



YOUR NEMESIS, DARK GOD? I HAVE PLANTED THE SEED FOR YOUR DESTRUCTION. IF THE SOUL REMAINS WITHIN YOU TO NOURISH IT!

ARRRRGGH! IT... HURTS!



HEAR ME, DANIEL GLEASON... LOOK ABOUT THE STYGIAN NIGHT.

N-N-NO... NO...



WH-WHO...?
IS...IS SOMEONE
THERE? OUT
THERE...? SO...
SO COLD AND
DARK... IN
HERE...

"...You live inside
the evil... find
the light!"

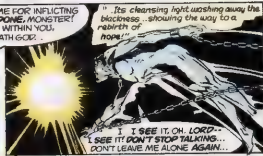


THERE'S NOTHING
HERE... ONLY DARKNESS
I... WAIT!



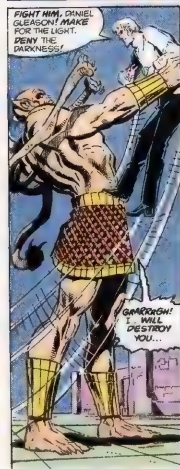
YO YOU... WILL SUFFER...
FOR UHHHH!

YOUR TIME FOR INFLECTING
PAIN IS DONE, MONSTER!
LIFE IS WITHIN YOU,
DEATH GOD.



"...Its cleansing light washing away the
blackness... showing the way to a
rebirth of
hope!"

I... I SEE IT, OH, LORD...
I SEE IT! DON'T STOP TALKING...
DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE AGAIN...



FIGHT HIM, DANIEL
GLEASON! MAKE
FOR THE LIGHT.
DENY THE
DARKNESS!

GARGRRGH!
I WILL
DESTROY
YOU...



...AND SUCK
DRY YOUR
OWN ENERGIES
FROM YOUR
BLOODIED
REMAINS TO
COMBAT YOUR
MAGICS!

AVE,
DESTROY ME
IF YOU CAN!
AH PUCH--



--BUT THAT WILL NOT HALT
YOUR AGONY! I AM NOT
WHAT EATS AWAY AT YOU
FROM WITHIN

YOUR PAIN COMES FROM
THE HUMAN SPIRIT
SEEKING FREEDOM
FROM YOUR
TYRANNY!

BUT IF IT IS
MY ENERGIES
YOU WISH--



--I GIVE OF THEM
FREELY NOW. TAKE
THEM. TAKE
THEM ALL!

AAAIIIEEEE!

...MMMPHNI... THIS
BARRIER! HAVE TO
B-BREAK FREE



WHAT... THE LIGHT--
IT SHOULD BLIND ME...
BUT IT... IT'S FREEING
ME FROM MY
CHAINS...



I CAN FEEL
IT... CALLING
TO ME.
FROM JUST
THE OTHER
SIDE OF



YOU HAVE FOUND THE
WAY, DANIEL GLEASON! YOUR
CAPTOR WAS FAR TOO MIGHTY
TO ASSAULT WITH SIMPLE MAGICS
OR PHYSICAL EFFORTS--



--BUT INSIDE THAT WAS
A DIFFERENT MATTER!
AH PUCK'S RESURRECTION
WAS POWERFUL, BUT BUILT
UPON A FOUNDATION OF
EVIL WEAKENED BY A
SINGLE FLAW--THE
HUMAN SPIRIT!



WHILE A MAN HAS HOPE,
HE WILL STRUGGLE UNTIL
HE CAN FIGHT NO MORE, NO
MATTER THE ODDS! IT IS
THAT VERY SPIRIT WHICH
ALLOWS MY EXISTENCE!
WELCOME, DANIEL
GLEASON

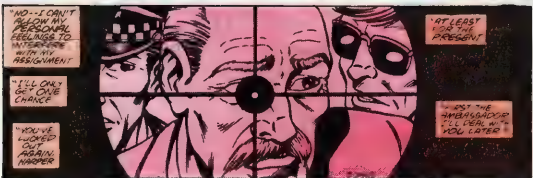


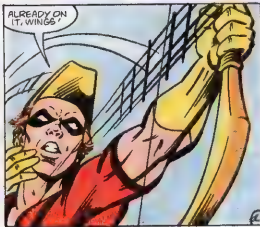
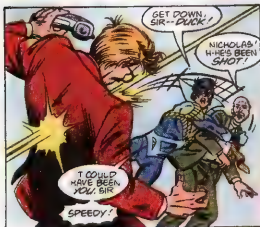
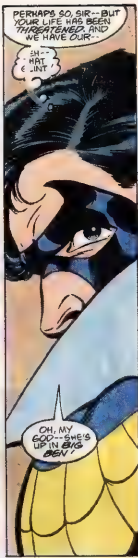
TAKE MY CLOAK, MY FRIEND YOUR WORK
WAS BUT THE CATALYST RELEASING FORCES
THAT STAND EVER READY TO INVADE
AND ENSLAVE HUMANITY

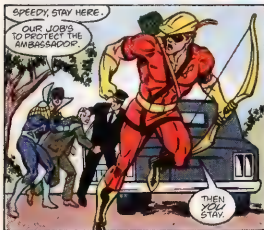
WH--WHAT
HAPPENED? DID
MY BOOK REALLY
CAUSE ALL
THIS?

SEE THIS, THEN, AS A WARNING--
TO BEWARE THAT WHICH IS NOT UNDER-
STOOD... TO BE RESPECTFUL OF THAT
WHICH WE DO NOT READILY BELIEVE
AND TO BE READY ALWAYS
TO CONFRONT EVIL IN
WHATEVER FORM IT
TAKES

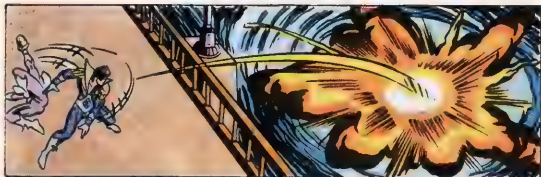
I KNOW FOR
I AM THE PHANTOM
STRANGER!











SHE'S GONE! AT LEAST WE STOPPED THE ASSASSINATION.

NOT GOOD ENOUGH SOMEONE STILL DIED.

AND SHE'S NOT GOING TO GIVE UP.

YOU SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO ME, ROY.

HEY, I SAID I WAS SORRY. WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?

LET'S GET BACK TO THE HOTEL.

HER TOE-CLAW ONLY GRAZED ME, BUT IT HURTS LIKE HELL.

LISTEN, ROY, I WAS THINKING-- I'M SORRY FOR SNAPPING.

WASN'T EASY, DICK.

I LOOK AT CHESHIRE AND THINK OF MY MOTHER.

IT REALLY HURTS, DICK-- KNOWING MY OWN DAUGHTER'S OUT THERE AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE OR HOW TO FIND HER.

GOD, HOW SOME PEOPLE SCREW UP THEIR LIVES!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN HELL FIGHTING THE MOTHER OF YOUR CHILD.

AND I THINK HOW LONG IT'S BEEN SINCE I'VE EVEN SEEN HER.

HOW DID YOU TWO MEET?

WELL, YOU KNOW AFTER I WENT STRAIGHT I JOINED THE FBI'S DRUG-TRAFFICKING DIVISION.

I WAS ASSIGNED TO LAPD, WHERE I WAS SUPPOSED TO SCORE SOME COKE SHE HAS THE GO-BETWEEN.

YOU GOT THE STUFF?

"I WAS
ON THE
JOB..."

"...BUT, TRUTH TO TELL,
WE WERE IMMEDIATELY
ATTRACTED TO EACH
OTHER."



"I DON'T WANT TO LIE,
DICK--WE WEREN'T IN
LOVE. IT WAS JUST
HORMONES."

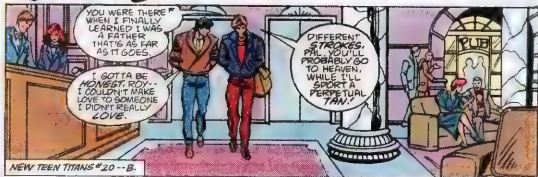
"AND IT
WAS FUN."

"I GOT THE
INFORMATION
I NEEDED,
FOUND OUT
THEIR
DEALER
IN THE
STATES..."



"...AND MY JAPAN TRIP
WAS OVER, SIMPLE AS
THAT."

"ONLY IT WASN'T THAT SIMPLE.
I DIDN'T KNOW CHESHIRE
WAS PREGNANT WITH MY
KID."



"YOU WERE THERE
WHEN I FINALLY
LEARNED I WAS
A FATHER
THAT'S AS FAR
AS IT GOES."

"I GOTTA BE
HONEST, ROY--
I COULDN'T MAKE
LOVE TO SOMEONE
I DIDN'T REALLY
LOVE."

"DIFFERENT
STROKES.
PAL, YOU'LL
PROBABLY GO
TO HEAVEN,
WHILE I'LL
SPORT A
PERPETUAL
TAN!"

NEW TEEN TITANS #20--B.



"I HAVE TO ASK--WHAT'S IT LIKE HAVING
A KID? I SOMETIMES THINK WHAT IF KORY
AND I--"

"DICK,
DO YOU
MIND LET'S
DROP IT,
OKAY?"



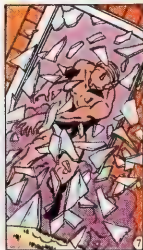
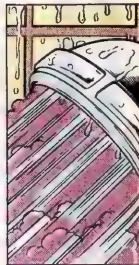
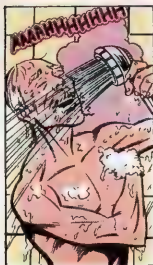
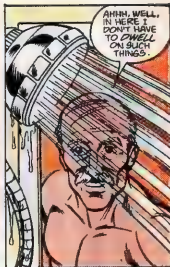
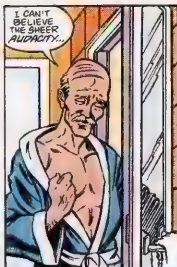
"THERE'S SOMETHING
YOU'RE NOT TELLING
ME, ROY."

"FROM THE
MOMENT YOU RAN
OFF EARLIER, I
FELT SOMETHING
STUNK!"

"I DIDN'T
WANT THOSE
COSTUMED
CHILDREN
ABOUT, AND
I CERTAINLY
DON'T WANT
GUARDS
INVADING MY
PRIVACY."



"WHY DON'T
YOU PEOPLE
LEAVE ME
ALONE?"





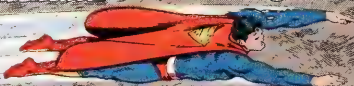
SUPERMAN

Created by
JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER

DEATH

I CAN ALMOST ACCEPT THAT THIS SECRET FELLOWSHIP CONSIDERS ME A GOD... AFTER ALL, THERE ARE A LOT OF STRANGE CULTS IN CALIFORNIA.

BUT IF BOB GALT IS TO BE BELIEVED, THEY ARE ALSO GAINING BIZARRE POWERS... THROUGH WORSHIPPING ME! THAT I CANNOT ACCEPT!



A MAN WHO'S A PERFECT MATCH FOR BOB'S WOULD-BE KILLER WAS ADMITTED TO THIS BURN CENTER SHORTLY AFTER THE EXPLOSION.

IF IT IS THE SAME MAN, HOW DID HE GET SOME 3,000 MILES FROM METROPOLIS IN A MATTER OF MINUTES?! SO MANY QUESTIONS.



...IT'S TIME I STARTED GETTING SOME ANSWERS!

EXCUSE ME, I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE TREATING A CHARLES CULPEPPER HERE... WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO SPEAK WITH HIM?



S-SUPERMAN! YES... NO! I MEAN... MR. CULPEPPER IS HERE... BUT HE'S RESTING NOW AND SHOULDN'T HAVE VISITORS!

BUT AS THE MAN OF STEEL FOCUSES HIS AMAZING X-RAY VISION

GOOD LORD!



SUPERMAN... WHAT...?

TELL YOUR SECURITY TO MEET ME AT CULPEPPER'S ROOM! AND HURRY..



COMES CALLING...

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZIURD - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING ELSE THAT'S
BEHIND THEIR POWERS... QUESTION IS, **WHAT?**
I CAN'T IGNORE THAT BOB CAME ALL THE WAY
TO METROPOLIS TO ENLIST MY HELP FOR
THE FELLOWSHIP...

-- AND A MAN TRIED TO
KILL HIM FOR HIS EFFORTS!
THAT MAN ESCAPED ME BY
BLOWING HIMSELF UP...
OR SO IT SEEMED!



CAN YOU AT LEAST
TELL ME HIS ROOM
NUMBER?

Y-YES, OF
COURSE. HE'S IN
ROOM 256.

THAT'S IN
THE NORTH WING?
YES... I SEE...

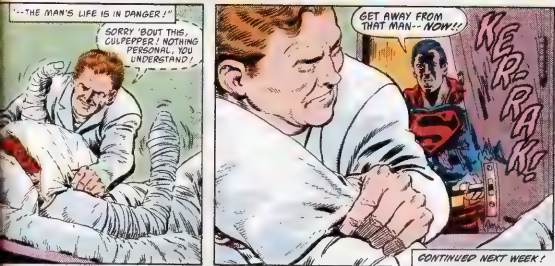


"--THE MAN'S LIFE IS IN DANGER!"

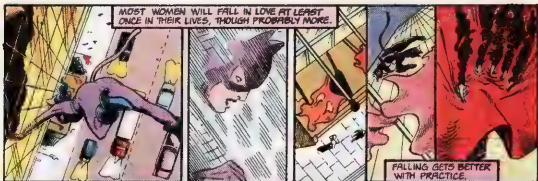
SORRY 'BOUT THIS,
CULPEPPER! NOTHING
PERSONAL, YOU
UNDERSTAND!

GET AWAY FROM
THAT MAN-- NOW!!

KEP-RAK!



CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!



MOST WOMEN WILL FALL IN LOVE AT LEAST
ONCE IN THEIR LIVES, THOUGH PROBABLY MORE.

FALLING GETS BETTER
WITH PRACTICE.

SOME WILL GET LUCKY AFTER ONLY
THE FOURTH OR SIXTH TIME.

A FEW WILL
WAIT TO FALL
FOREVER.

AND SHE WILL
ALWAYS LAND
ON HER FEET.

SHOWCASE
presentation

SHE IS

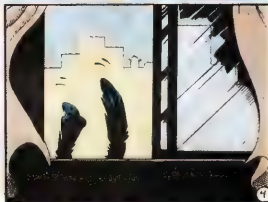
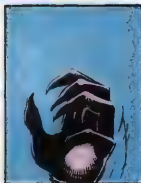
CATWOMAN™

THE TIN
ROOF CLUB
PART FOUR

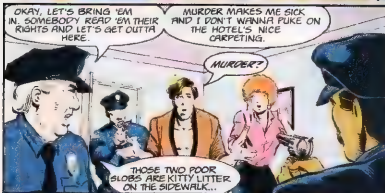
MINDY NEWELL-WRITER
BARRY KITSON-PENCILLER
BRUCE PATTERSON-INKER
CARRIE SPIEGLE-LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY-COLORIST
DENNIS O'NEIL-EDITOR
DAN RASPLER-ASST. EDITOR





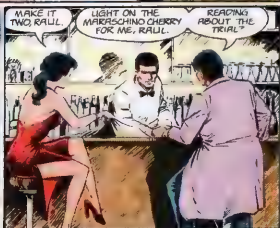








HOW CAN A
MAN GET A GOOD
SHIRLEY TEMPLE
AROUND HERE?



MAKE IT
TWO, RAUL.

LIGHT ON THE
MARRASCHINO CHERRY
FOR ME, RAUL.

READING
ABOUT THE
TRIAL?



LOOKS LIKE
ARTHUR'S
GOING UP THE
RIVER.

THE GUY'S ABSOLUTELY
TERRIFIED, WHITE-
KNUCKLED.

HOLLY HAS A LOT
OF FRIENDS UP RIVER. HE
WON'T LAST A YEAR.

SWEARS HE'S
INNOCENT SWEARS
HE WAS FRAMED.



THEY ALL SAY
THAT TOO MANY
CAGNEY MOVIES.



WHAT'S THE MATTER?
DID I SUDDENLY GROW
TWO HEADS OR
SOMETHING?

JUST FOR A
SECOND
THERE--

WHAT?



THE CAT AND
THE CANARY KNOW
WHAT I MEAN?



DON'T WORRY, DETECTIVE
FLANNERY I'M ALLERGIC TO
FEATHERS

THE END



DC Comics Inc.
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Dear Action,
I loooooove this comic!
Nice cover.
Enough chit-chat. Now, the review
The Green Lantern story. It was okay,
but not as good as the first two install-
ments. I don't know how Hal's going to
get out of this one.

The Secret Six. Good story. Real good
story. These guys are starting to grow on
me

The Deadman story. At first I said, "Oh
no, a flying saucer in a Deadman story."
Then I remembered Mike Baron was at
the helm, so I have faith

The Superman story. Getting better,
but still too darn short

The Wild Dog story. Good story I'm on
Wild Dog's side. I hate those types of
moralist groups Blow 'em away, Wild
Dog!

The Blackhawk story. Looking good
Where are the other Blackhawks?

Nice job, guys. I just loooooove this
comic!

Nick Damon
4840 Grisham Ave
Long Beach, CA 90805

The "other" Blackhawks—along with
Blackhawk himself, of course—return
next week!

Dear Mike and Co.,

After reading the first three issues of
ACTION COMICS WEEKLY, I felt
obligated to write and tell you what I
think. Here goes

Green Lantern—Thus far, the best
series in the book. Being an old Green
Lantern fan, I am delighted to see him in
his own solo series again. Jim Owsley's
writing is fast-paced while still contain-
ing an interesting plot, and Gil Kane's
art is fantastic

Wild Dog—Better, I think, than last
summer's mini-series. Collins's plot is
developing well, although I am waiting
to see Wild Dog in action again. Terry
Beatty's pencils fit this series to a T

Deadman—Solid Jurgens art, and a
good Baron story. The mix of humor and
mystery is well done, especially in issue
#603

Superman—With only six pages so
far, it is almost impossible to give an
opinion. It's nice to see Curt Swan draw
Supes again, and Stern has captured
the feel of the Sunday comics idea. This
segment is why the book is called ACTION

Blackhawk—Second only to Green
Lantern as my favorite storyline. What

can I say about Mike Grell's writing that
hasn't already been said? If I had known
Blackhawk was such a fun character, I
would have bought his mini-series

Secret Six—Good, but I'm saving my
complete opinion until I see what
develops. I have never been a fan of Dan
Spiegel's art, but it is slowly winning my
respect.

I'm anxiously looking forward to Black
Canary and Nightwing's upcoming
features, and how about giving
Aquaman a shot a few issues down the
road? My favorite character after the
Batman deserves more than a special
every few years. And last but not least,
the inevitable list of characters who
should get a storyline. Captain Marvel,
some or all of the Outsiders, Dr. Fate,
the Martian Manhunter, and maybe
even Dolphin

So far, a terrific job. ACTION COMICS
WEEKLY is a sure success. Keep up the
good work

Robb Ullman
5419 Dianna Lynn Dr
Stow, OH 44224

There's an AQUAMAN mini-series
scheduled for the near future. Rob... as
for the real Captain Marvel, well, he'll be
starting in our second Showcase
feature right here in ACW in nine
weeks, courtesy of Roy Thomas, Rick
Stasi, and Rick Magyar!

THE GREAT ACTION COMICS WEEKLY POLLI

ACW #603 (previous issue's standing in
parentheses)

- #1—Blackhawk (#1)
- #2—Green Lantern (#2)
- #3—Deadman (#3)
- #4 (tie)—Wild Dog (#5)
- #4 (tie)—Secret Six (#4)
- #6—Superman (#6)

Dear Mike

ACTION COMICS WEEKLY is fabu-
lous. My personal favorite is Green
Lantern. I have counted Gil Kane as one
of the most talented pencillers in the
history of the graphic story, ever since I
first began to follow his art in the Silver
Age Green Lantern title. I especially
enjoy seeing him ink his own work. No
other penciller has the crisp, clean line
work that typifies Kane

The storyline by James Owsley packs
a wallop. The Star Sapphire depiction is

what this tragically divided figure was
always meant to be. We the readers feel,
along with Hal/Green Lantern, the con-
fused mixture of emotions brought on by
knowing that beneath her ruthless
exterior, Star is really Carol Ferris and
never chose evil as her path

Blackhawk is proving to be a nice
follow-up to the major series by Howard
Chaykin. I like the Burchett/Marcos
approach of fast-moving visuals
borrowing from cinema techniques.
Mike Grell's characterization of "Miss
Hastings" is quite sharp

The updated Secret Six has tremen-
dous potential as of #603. Another fast-
moving story that reads well in an
anthology title

I also find Deadman and Wild Dog well
done, good reading, with storylines that
I look forward to from issue to issue. But
I feel the title needs another page or two
of shorter features. Otherwise, an
anthology title feels too monumental
and the stories get lost. You need a
break from one eight-page following
after another

I suppose the Superman featurette
fulfills this function to a limited degree.
Personally, I'm not crazy about the
approach. Isn't there something more
interesting that you could do with
Superman in ACTION COMICS WEEK-
LY? Perhaps in the future you could
focus on supporting characters in
adventures where Superman is still
prominent. I'd like to see a Superman
short feature done in the style of Will
Esner's *Spirit*, that is, a mainstay sort
of character being a real chameleon—an
experimental or avant-garde Super-
man

Finally, I want to mention that the
three covers so far have been beyond
belief, ravishing, four-star, and collec-
tor's item quality. They've really helped
to make the initial ACTION COMICS
WEEKLY issues something special.
Dave Gibbons (#601) did an innovative
slant on the multi-character lineup.
Perez's Green Lantern (#602) was just
beautiful and highly dynamic. Kyle
Baker's Blackhawk (#603) is a stunning
piece of illustration. I hope we'll see
more multi-hero covers, too

Louis A. Morra
(address withheld)
New York, NY

Dear Mike

Just finished issue #603. Take it from
a person who has read comics for 35
years (I'm 40, and I doubt if even I could

actually read them before I was five), you have a real good magazine in ACTION COMICS WEEKLY. There are a lot of books on the market today that don't deliver the quality stories and art, but your ACTION COMICS WEEKLY certainly does both!

ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #603 had a nice cover, and Blackhawk seemed to be treated with a little more respect in the picture. Inside, Gil Kane again was superb! This Green Lantern storyline, with the great art, is extremely high-quality material and makes your weekly something to look forward to. Green Lantern's dilemma on page 5, where he has to resort to physically backhanding Star Sapphire, was excellent, and very much in character with the Green Lantern of the past.

The Secret Six story finally got moving at a better pace, although I really didn't like the first page very much. I prefer a better intro and a splash panel that brings me up to date.

Page 7 of the Secret Six was my favorite, and was Spiggle at his best! Wild Dog continued to be a bore. Blackhawk is a pretty good story and the artwork is nice, but I hate to see Blackhawk treated as just another drunken old worn-out soldier! He's a hero! What you've done to him is awful.

I'm beginning to like Deadman a lot, and it has much to do with DeZuniga. He has always been one of my favorite artists, and he did some great work on Jonah Hex a while back. It's good to see him in ACTION COMICS WEEKLY.

Overall, I'm hooked. The only problem is, every time I go into the store to buy ACTION COMICS WEEKLY, I see some more of your great books, like ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN, SUPERMAN, POWER OF THE ATOM, WONDER WOMAN, and WORLD OF METROPOLIS. That means I spend more money, and tie up all my free time reading comics and writing you letters.

Coy Brown
622 LaMond Ruslie
Winchester, KY 40391

And we appreciate it, Coy. Speaking about writing letters.

While you're casting your votes in our weekly surveys please include a line or two of comment on the stories themselves. We're getting a ton of votes each week, and we're getting our share of letters of comment, but there are a whole lot of people who are *only* voting. That's okay by us, but if you've got the time to include a few words of comment as well, hey, that's even better.

Dear Actionners,

Good news! I like y'all better this week (as if y'all based your entire self-worth upon my approval. I).

Some random thoughts on issue #603.

The issue overall was of a higher quality than the first two (maybe we can attribute that to working out the bugs

and the development of the stories ... we're at about the length of a regular monthly comic book now, and most of the writers have had the time to get their basic exposition done).

Love the Kyle Baker cover ... this guest cover artist thing is great!

Green Lantern was a little more interesting this time ... at least I didn't start yawning halfway through the story this issue.

Hey, what can you say about the Secret Six? The art's good, the story's good. I'm hanging in breathless suspense about what happened to the original team (and the answer to that question of questions ... if they're dead, who is Mockingbird?). Keep it up, y'all!

Mike Baron's sense of humor finally surfaced with Deadman's conversation with Talaoc ... thanks. I was wondering what had happened to it.

This two-page Superman is really kind of a lost cause, y'all. If I want Sunday comics, I'll buy the Sunday paper. As it is, it's taking up two pages that could be put to better use by the Secret Six or Wild Dog. Look, I don't hate Superman ... I've really enjoyed Byrne's run on ACTION, ADVENTURES, and SUPERMAN. This two-page stuff, however, is about as exciting as writing the research paper I should be working on instead of writing to y'all.

Wild Dog continues to be one of the most pleasant comic book surprises in recent memory. For the third week in a row, let me tell you just how much I detested the Wild Dog mini series and how much I have enjoyed his run in ACTION COMICS WEEKLY. I am a Christian and take a stand against pornography based both upon my faith and upon the social ramifications of porn ... but I do not advocate unlimited censorship. Each of us must censor our own reading and our children's reading, following Christ's admonition to be "as innocent as doves, and as wise as serpents." I hope that you won't allow your prejudices to warp your presentation of the fight against that which exploits us and destroys our own self worth.

And finally, Blackhawk. This is the stuff of my worst nightmares ... y'all have followed Howard Chaykin's lead. Blackhawk is a slime. He is, granted, a nicely drawn slime. He is a character that I couldn't care less about. Hey, if it wouldn't damage the value of the comic, I'd cut out Blackhawk (a little bit of personal editing). I know y'all are probably committed to do this for "x" number of weeks, so as soon as everybody's contracts expire, dump this clown into the South China Sea. Or maybe we could call in Johnny DC, Continuity Cop, and have him exile Chaykin's mini-series and this mess you're leaving in ACTION COMICS WEEKLY to somewhere far outside the DC Universe ... like next door to Captain Carrot and his Zoo Crew.

Anyway, it was a darn sight better this time out. Y'all are improving, and that's an excellent sign.

Bob the Duck
Rt 6, Box 178
Silsbee, TX 77566

Funny thing about Blackhawk ... not only has it been the constant leader in our weekly poll (after the first week), but it has received the most first-place votes each week as well—sometimes half again as many first-place votes as the #2 feature! But those folks who chose to actually write letters of comment in addition to casting their votes ranked the series toward the bottom.

VOTE!

Just as soon as you've finished this issue of ACTION COMICS WEEKLY, write us a letter or a postcard and rank this issue's stories in order of preference, since the one you like the most first, the one you liked next second, and so on. Each week, we'll tally the vote and print the results right here in our letter column. Your opinion counts, so VOTE!

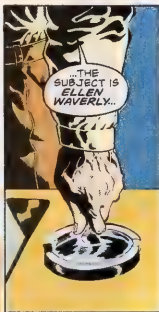
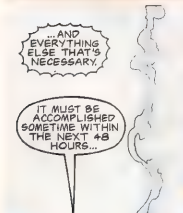
Send your ballots to:
Action Comics Weekly
Department 614
DC Comics Inc.
666 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10103

Next week: The continuing adventures of all our heroes—plus the return of Wild Dog. Barry Crain and Rick Magyar provide a commemorative Wild Dog cover to celebrate the event.

See you in seven!

—Mike Gold





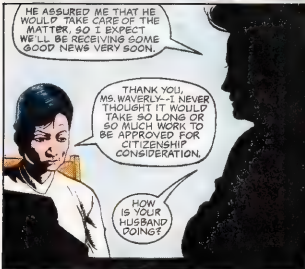
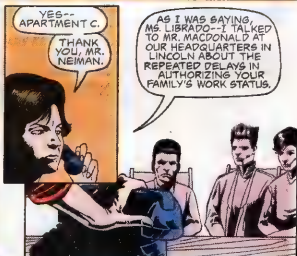
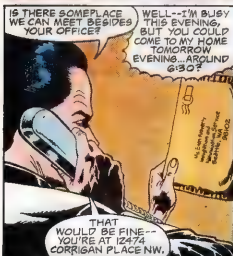
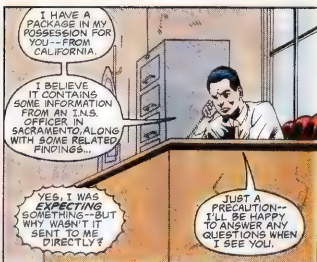
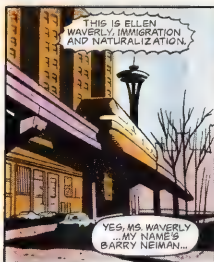
SHARON
WRIGHT
WRITER
PABLO
MARCOS
INKER
TOM
ZIUKO
COLORIST

RANDY
DUBURKE
PENCILLER
STEVE
HAYNIE
LETTERER
MIKE
GOLD
EDITOR

BLACK CANARY™

BITTER FRUIT PART 4











NO.

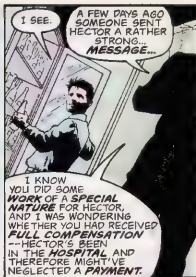
C'MON IN
AND HAVE A
COKE OR
SOMETHING.

ARE YOU
HANK
BEECHAM?



WHY, YES--
THAT'S ME.

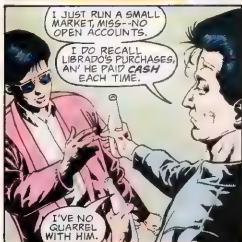
JUST THE
FELLOW I WANT
TO SEE--ON BEHALF
OF HECTOR LIBRADO.



I SEE.

A FEW DAYS AGO
SOMEONE SENT
HECTOR A RATHER
STRONG...
MESSAGE...

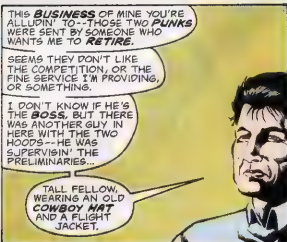
I KNOW
YOU DID SOME
WORK OF A SPECIAL
NATURE FOR HECTOR,
AND I WAS WONDERING
WHETHER YOU HAD RECEIVED
FULL COMPENSATION
--HECTOR'S BEEN
IN THE HOSPITAL AND
THEREFORE MIGHT'VE
NEGLECTED A PAYMENT.



I JUST RUN A SMALL
MARKET, MISS--NO
OPEN ACCOUNTS.

I DO RECALL
LIBRADO'S PURCHASES,
AN' HE PAID **CASH**
EACH TIME.

I'VE NO
QUARREL
WITH HIM.



THIS **BUSINESS** OF MINE YOU'RE
ALLUDIN' TO--THOSE TWO **PUNKS**
WERE SENT BY SOMEONE WHO
WANTS ME TO **RETIRE**.

SEEMS THEY DON'T LIKE
THE COMPETITION, OR THE
FINE SERVICE I'M PROVIDING,
OR SOMETHING.

I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S
THE **BOSS**, BUT THERE
WAS ANOTHER GUY IN
HERE WITH THE TWO
HOODS--HE WAS
SUPERVISIN' THE
PRELIMINARIES...

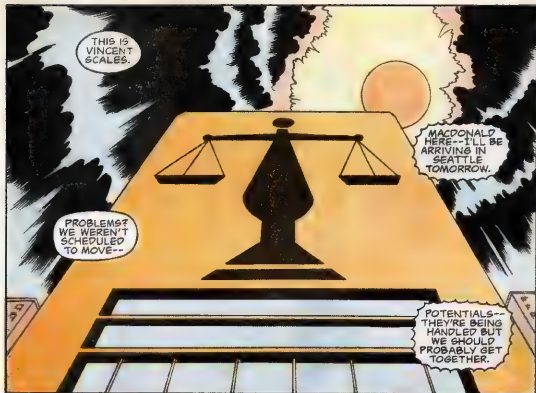
TALL FELLOW,
WEARING AN OLD
COWBOY HAT
AND A FLIGHT
JACKET.



DOUG
VALLINES...
SONOFA--!

THANKS.

SURE.



THIS IS VINCENT SCALES.

MACDONALD
HERE--I'LL BE
ARRIVING IN
SEATTLE
TOMORROW.

PROBLEMS?
WE WEREN'T
SCHEDULED
TO MOVE--

POTENTIALS--
THEY'RE BEING
HANDLED BUT
WE SHOULD
PROBABLY GET
TOGETHER.

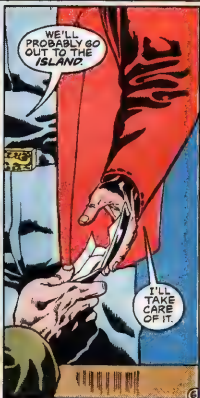


ALL RIGHT
--I'LL SEE
TO IT THAT
YOU'RE TAKEN
CARE OF.

OKAY,
VINCE.

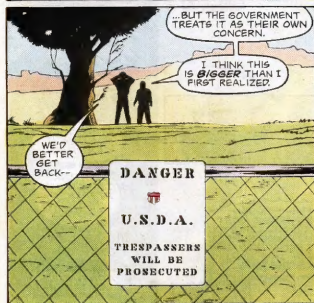
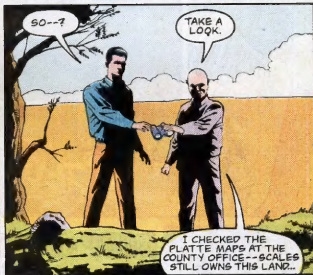


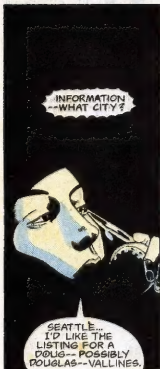
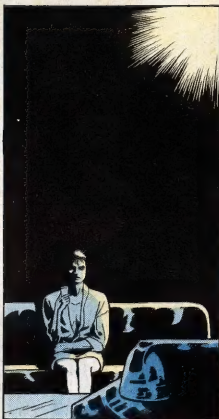
MACDONALD
IS ARRIVING
TOMORROW,
GARY--CHECK
THE BOAT OUT.



WE'LL
PROBABLY GO
OUT TO THE
ISLAND.

I'LL
TAKE
CARE
OF IT.





**BOOP-BOOP-
KLIK!**



THIS IS DOUG--
I'M NOT AROUND RIGHT
NOW, BUT IF YOU LEAVE YOUR
NAME, AND PHONE NUMBER,
I'LL GET BACK TO YOU BEFORE
THE END OF THIS YEAR... HERE
COMES THE TONE...

BEEP!

